

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06383 232105Z

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG,UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: SOLAR ENERGY (08.02.09)

REF: STATE 75727,

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR APRIL 14 MET WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION MAKSIMOV TO PRESENT HIRSCHLETTER TRAISMITTED

PER REFTEL. ALSO PRESENT DURING MEETING WERE TROSHIN AND MALTSEV OF MINPOWER FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AND MALEVSKIY OF HRZHIZHANOVSKIY INSTITUTE, WHO HEADS SOVIET SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT GROUP.

2. SCICOUNS HAD PLACED REQUEST APRIL 5, UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, FOR MEETING WITH MAKSIMOV. MEETING WAS NOT ARRANGED UNTIL APRIL 14.

3. MAKSIMOV COMMENTS ON TEXT OF LETTER AND THE ATTITUDE HE DISPLAYED IN DISCUSSION OF SOLAR PROJECT WITH SCICOUNS CLEARLY CONVEYED STRONG DISPLEASURE AT POSTPONEMENT OF ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. HOWEVER, FINAL MAKSIMOV REPLY REFLECTS SAME ATTITUDE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN ALL ALONG RE SOLAR PROJECT, AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GOVERNED BY JOINT COMMITTEE POSTPONSMET.

4. MAKSIMOV INITIAL REACTION TO VISIT AS OUTLINED IN LETTER WAS NEGATIVE. HE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT, IN ABSENCE OF ANY JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION, ONLY "OLD BUSINESS," AS AGREED UPON DURING LAST JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN 1974, COULD BE CONDUCTED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06383 232105Z

REMINDEN THAT THE SOLAR PROJECT IS VERY OLD BUSINESS INDEED, LONG

OVERDUE TO IMPLEMENTATION, MAKSIMOV RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE US DELEGATION, SINCE THE SOVIETS "NATURALLY" WILL CARRY OUT EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN AGREED TO. BUT HE ALSO STRESSED THAT SEVERAL MATTERS REMAINED TO BE SETTLED BEFORE AN ITINERARY FOR THE VISIT COULD BE DRAFTED.

5. MAKSIMOV COMPLAINED THAT, PROPERLY, THE LETTER SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO HIM AT ALL, BUT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO MALEVSKIY, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOLAR PROJECT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT RECEIVING A LETTER FROM DR. HIRSCH WHEN HE HAS YET TO RECEIVE ANY FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF DR. HIRSCH'S NEW POSITION IN ERDA AND NEW ROLE UNDER THE AGREEMENT. SCICOUNS NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO WORD EITHER ABOUT HIRSCH'S APPOINTMENT, BUT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT DR. ROBERTS HAS BEEN NAMED ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ATOMIC ENERGY.

6. MAKSIMOV THEN EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING AND LEFT TO MALEVSKIY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MINPOWER'S SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS CONCERNING PLANNING FOR DELEGATION VISIT, AS OUTLINED BELOW:

(A) THE SOVIET SOLAR PROJECT GROUP ASKS THAT IT RECEIVE FROM ITS US COUNTERPARTS A MORE SPECIFIC, NARROWER SET OF PROPOSALS ON THE TOPICS OF SOLAR COOPERATION. MAKSIMOV CONSIDERS THE LENGTHY LIST OF HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS WHICH THE US PRESENTED IN 1974 TO BE IRRELEVANT TO THE JOB AT HAND: THE APPLICATION OF SOLAR PHOTOELECTRIC CONVERTERS TO THE TASK OF SUPPLYING ENERGY TO THE USER, SCICOUNS REPLIED THAT EACH FIELD HAS ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS AND THAT HE KNOWS VERY WELL, FROM OWN EXPERIENCE, THAT EFFICIENT, INEXPENSIVE PHOTOVOLTAIC CONVERSION IS BOTH A MATERIALS AND SOPHISTICATED SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE PROBLEM DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY AREAS. THUS ASSESSMENT OF MUTUAL FUTURE BENEFITS DOES REQUIRE AN EVALUATION OF THE STATE OF TECHNOLOGY IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

(B) MALEVSKIY REQUESTED THE NAMES OF THE US PARTICIPANTS IN THE UPCOMING VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OF THE US LEAD AGENCY/AGENCIES FOR THE PROJECT. HE INSISTED THAT AN ACCEPTABLE ITINERARY COULD NOT BE DRAFTED WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION. HE INQUIRED SPECIFICALLY, IN VIEW OF THE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY TOPICS SUGGESTED BY THE US SOLAR GROUP, IF BELL TELEPHONE LABS WOULD ACT AS US LEAD AGENCY.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 06383 232105Z

(C) MALEVSKIY AND MAKSIMOV BOTH BALKED AT THE LIST OF INSTITUTES SPECIFIED AS OF INTEREST TO THE USDEL IN THE HIRSCH LETTER. ALTHOUGH MINPOWER IS THE SOVIET LEAD AGENCY FOR THE SOLAR PROJECT, NONE OF THE SIX INSTITUTES LISTED IS A MINPOWER INSTITUTE.

7. SCICOUNS STATED THAT COMMENTS MADE BY MAKSIMOV AND

MALEVSKIY WOULD BE REPORTED TO US SOLAR PROJECT GROUP.
MALEVSKIY PROMISED A FORMAL REPLY TO HISSCH LETTER "IN NEAR
FUTURE"

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